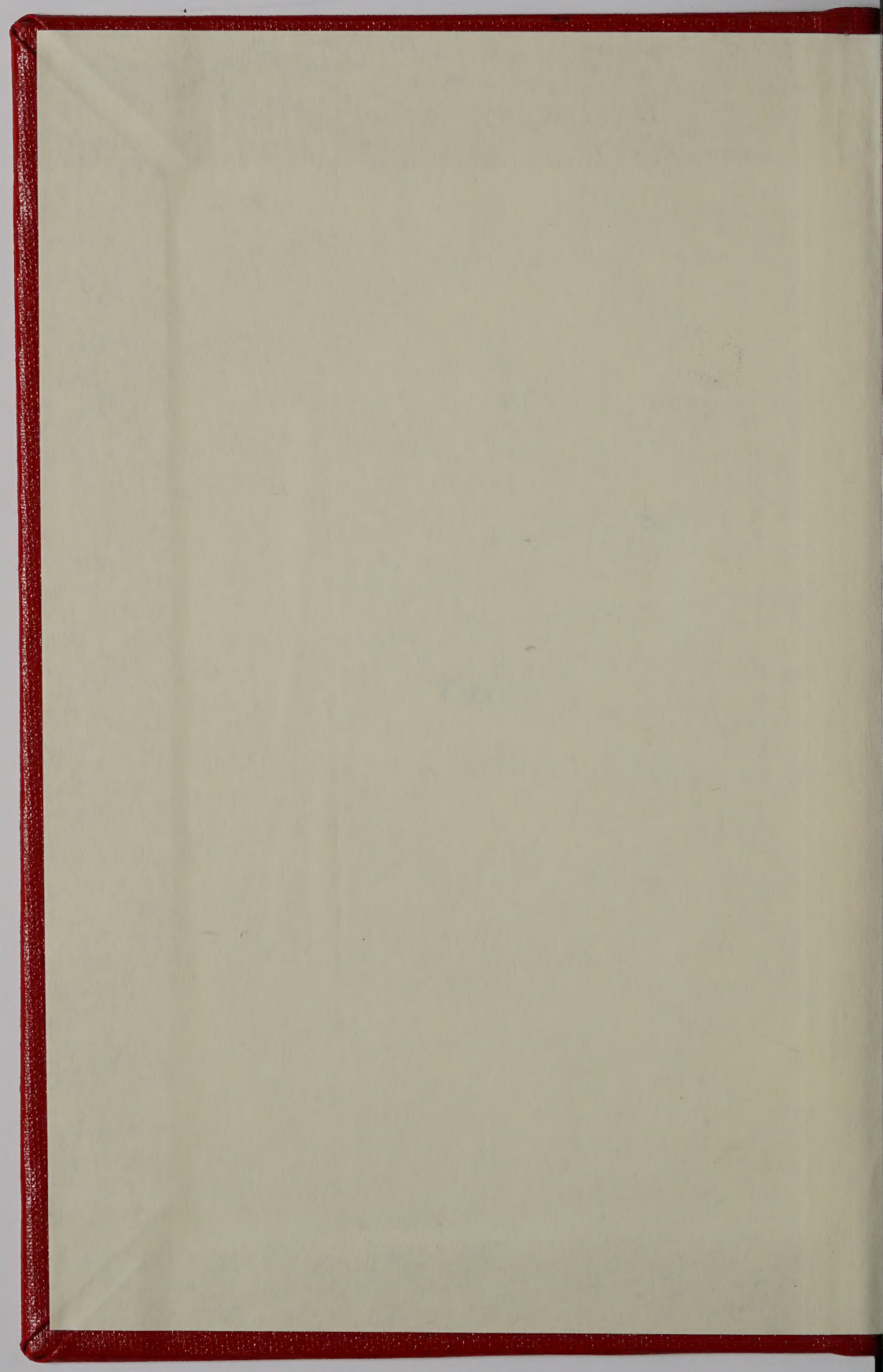
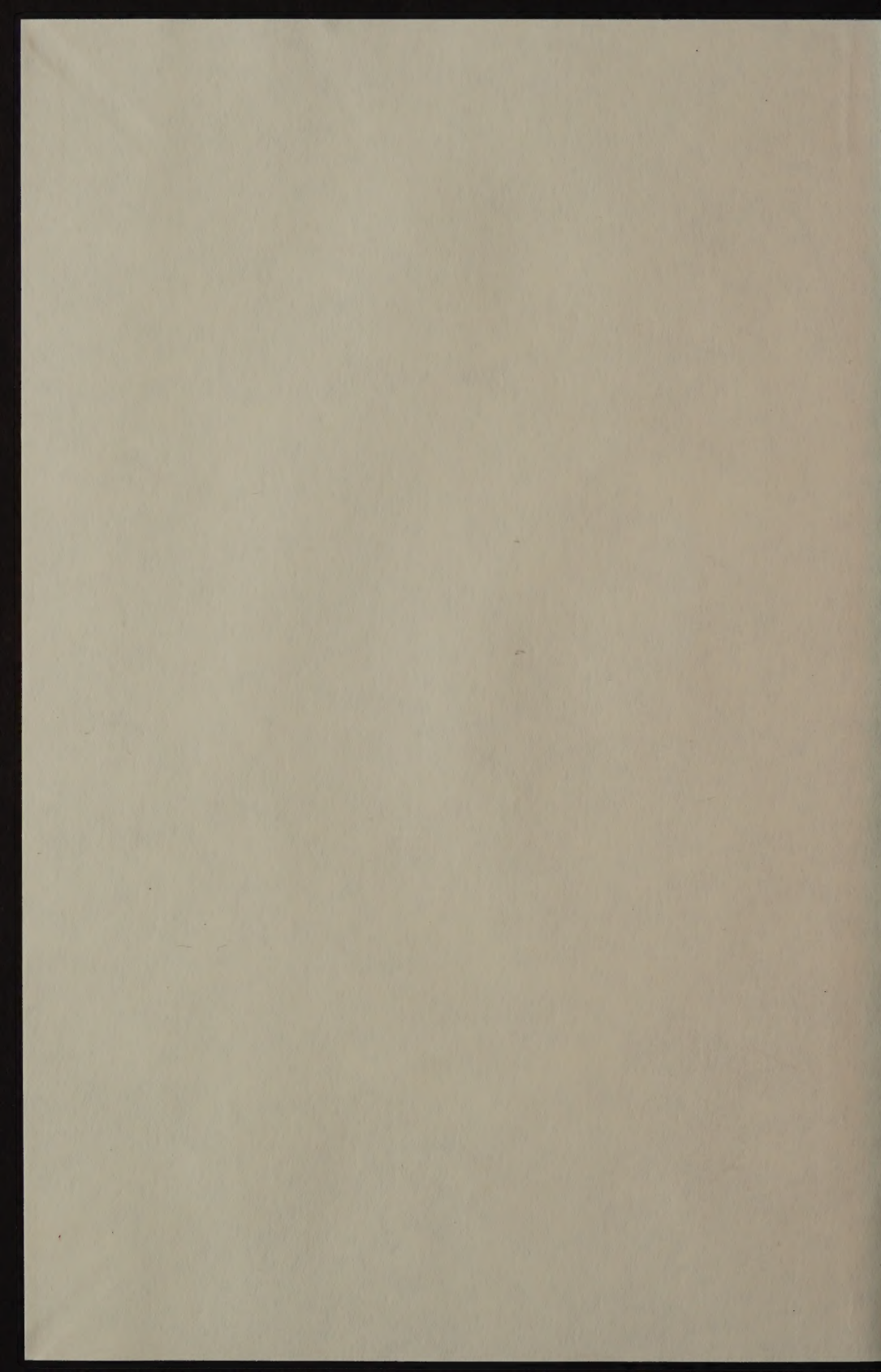




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**THE CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

CENTENNIAL
1859&1860 1959&1960**

Poughkeepsie, New York

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

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Centennial Events

Pentecost Patronal Festival

June 5, 1960

10:00 Sung Mass

Rectory Open House and Garden Party

Centennial Dedication Festival

October 23, 1960

10:00 Solemn High Mass

Preacher: The Reverend Gregory Mabry,
D. D.

Centennial Dinner

October 25, 1960

7:30 Poughkeepsie Inn

Speaker: The Reverend Edward R. Hardy,
Ph. D.

"The Church in 1860 and 1960"

Feast of Christ the King

October 30, 1960

8:00 Mass

The Consecration sermon of Bishop Potter

* * * *

HISTORICAL NOTES

On the 10th of May, in the year 1859, with canonical consent, a church organization was incorporated, bearing the name, The Church of the Holy Comforter. The original Board of Trustees consisted of The Reverend Samuel Buel, D. D., Rector of Christ Church, Messrs. Thomas L. and William A. Davies, Robert E. Coxe, John W. Van Wagnen, George Cornwall, and Benjamin R. Tenney. It was founded as a "Free Church", that is, independently of the Diocese, and was later accepted into membership in the Diocese. It was, however, free in another way. It was the custom in those times that pews in the Church were either sold or rented, their value being determined by their nearness to the front. Pews in the back or in a gallery were set aside for the poor. By this means the funds to build a church or to maintain it were acquired. The Church of the Holy Comforter was one of the first to be built in which all pews were free. Any one could sit where he chose.

Prior to this date, beginning on January 9th, 1859, Church services were conducted at "Shaw's Hall" on the south side of Main Street between Clover and Perry Streets, by The Reverend Samuel Buel.

Mr. William A. Davies offered to build a church at his own expense, and on May 20th, 1859, a lot 125 feet square on Davies Place was conveyed to the Trustees by Messrs. William A. and Thomas L. Davies, on which Mr. William A. Davies reserved the right to build a church. Mr. Davies' great grandfather had given the land for the building of St. Michael's Church in Litchfield, Connecticut, and his (William A. Davies') grand-

father, The Reverend Thomas Davies was the first Rector. This same Fr. Davies, as a missionary priest for the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, had founded several parishes in Connecticut.

On July 14th, the feast of St. Bonaventura, at five o'clock in the afternoon, the corner stone of The Church of the Holy Comforter was laid by the Bishop of New York, The Right Reverend Horatio Potter. This corner stone is in the southwest corner of the west buttress of the tower. The architects for the church were the Richard Mitchell Upjohn and Company, and the builder, Mr. William Harold of Poughkeepsie.

On March 3rd, 1960, the Trustees elected as the first Rector of the Parish, The Reverend John Scarborough, curate of St. Paul's Church, Troy, N. Y., who came to take up his residence in the Parish shortly after the Consecration of the Church. On Thursday, October 25th, the feast of SS. Crispin and Crispinian, the Church was Consecrated by Bishop Potter, who also preached the sermon from the texts: "This is none other but the House of God and this is the Gate of Heaven", Gen.xxvii, 17, and "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth", St. John iv, 24, the first of these being painted over the chancel arch, and the second around the wall of the apse.

Regular services began on the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, the 21st Sunday after Trinity, October 28th. After seven years as Rector of the Parish, Fr. Scarborough resigned, having accepted a call to the Rectorship of Trinity Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he remained until his Consecration as Bishop of New Jersey in

1875. As his successor as Rector of The Church of the Holy Comforter, The Reverend Robert Fulton Crary of Warrensburgh, New York was elected and took up his Rectorship on the first Sunday in October 1867. In 1870, the present Sacristy was built, to be used as a guild hall and choir room. The sacristy was originally in the tower room. In 1887 the reredos behind the altar was installed, blocking off two thirds of the central apsidal window. In 1891 the Sanctuary was remodeled and choir stalls were installed. In 1900 the Thorwaldsen Baptismal plaque was given as a memorial to Mrs. Edward Beck. Fr. Crary introduced during his Rectorship the use of Eucharistic Vestments, at least as early as 1892. He also announced in Parish bulletins that he would be in the church at certain stated hours in order that any who wished to consult him might do so, the usual form used then and still in some places to announce the hearing of Confessions, without using that inflammable word. During his Rectorship many beautiful vestments and hangings were added to the Parish, many designed by him and executed by members of the Parish. One which still remains is the lace frontal used at Christmas and Easter, designed by him and using Point d'Alencon lace given by Mrs. Edward Beck and said to have come from her wedding gown. On the first Sunday in October, 1907 after exactly forty years as Rector, because of advancing age and illness Fr. Crary resigned.

In December, 1907, The Reverend Charles Alexander Strombom of North Grafton, Massachusetts, was elected Rector. He began his work on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, February 9, 1908. During his Rectorship, the Parish House was built (1913), and the present Rectory was acquired. Upon his resignation in 1916, The

Reverend Clarence Archibald Bull was elected as the fourth Rector of the Parish. Very early in his Rectorship, in 1917, Perpetual Reservation of The Blessed Sacrament was begun, having been reserved on some occasions earlier. The Mass was made the principal service of the Parish every Sunday, and has so continued for forty-three years, nearly one half the life of the Parish. Fr. Bull gave much thought and attention to the endowments of the Parish and they were vastly increased under his care. The importance of this work can hardly be overestimated, for without it, it is quite probable that the Parish would never have reached this One Hundredth Anniversary.

In 1941, after twenty-five years as Rector, Fr. Bull resigned and was succeeded the same year by The Reverend Charles Edward Hopkin who remained as Rector during the difficult war years and in 1947 resigned and was succeeded by The Reverend Thomas Jay Williams. During Fr. Williams' Rectorship, the Sanctuary was redesigned and returned to more nearly its original state. The Altar was enlarged by the addition of a marble mensa and a correct Tabernacle was added. An Aumbry for the keeping of the Holy Oils was installed in the east wall of the nave. The use of the Missal was introduced. Fr. Williams resigned in 1953, and was succeeded by The Reverend Charles Herbert Willcox as seventh Rector of the Parish.

In 1953 Daily Mass and Offices were begun and have continued until the present time, and regular Friday evening Devotions instituted. In 1956 a Monstrance for the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was added to the furnishing of the Church. In 1957 the Church was redecorated by Leslie Nobbs of New York City, and the Sanctuary

lamp was replaced by a new one to eliminate the danger from the old one because of its weight. In the same year a new Chalice, gold fired on sterling was given as a memorial. It is a simplified copy of the Tassilio Chalice of the 8th Century. In 1958 Stations of the Cross, wood carvings from Italy were installed as memorials. At the Annual Parish Meeting in January 1960, the offer of a Confessional by the Reverend Thomas J. Williams as a memorial to his wife was accepted by the Parish. Pews in the rear of the Church were removed for its accommodation and designs are being drawn. The Baptismal font which was moved from the front of the Church during the Rectorship of Fr. Hopkin has been moved from beneath the great east window to a place near the entrance, and the Altar which was built under the direction of Fr. Hopkin for use in the Parish House during the fuel scarce war years has been permanently installed in that place. During this One Hundredth Anniversary funds are being raised to continue the pointing of the Church begun in 1957. In 1960 the Parish purchased the house at 12 Davies Place for use as a temporary Parish House to replace the Parish House which stands in the path of the through way.

In 1860 the Parish came into being through the generosity of one man. In 1960 the Church celebrates its One Hundredth Anniversary because for the last one quarter of its life a small group of faithful parishioners, while without his means, have given just as generously of their means and their time. The Parish is able to celebrate its One Hundredth Anniversary because of their sacrifices.

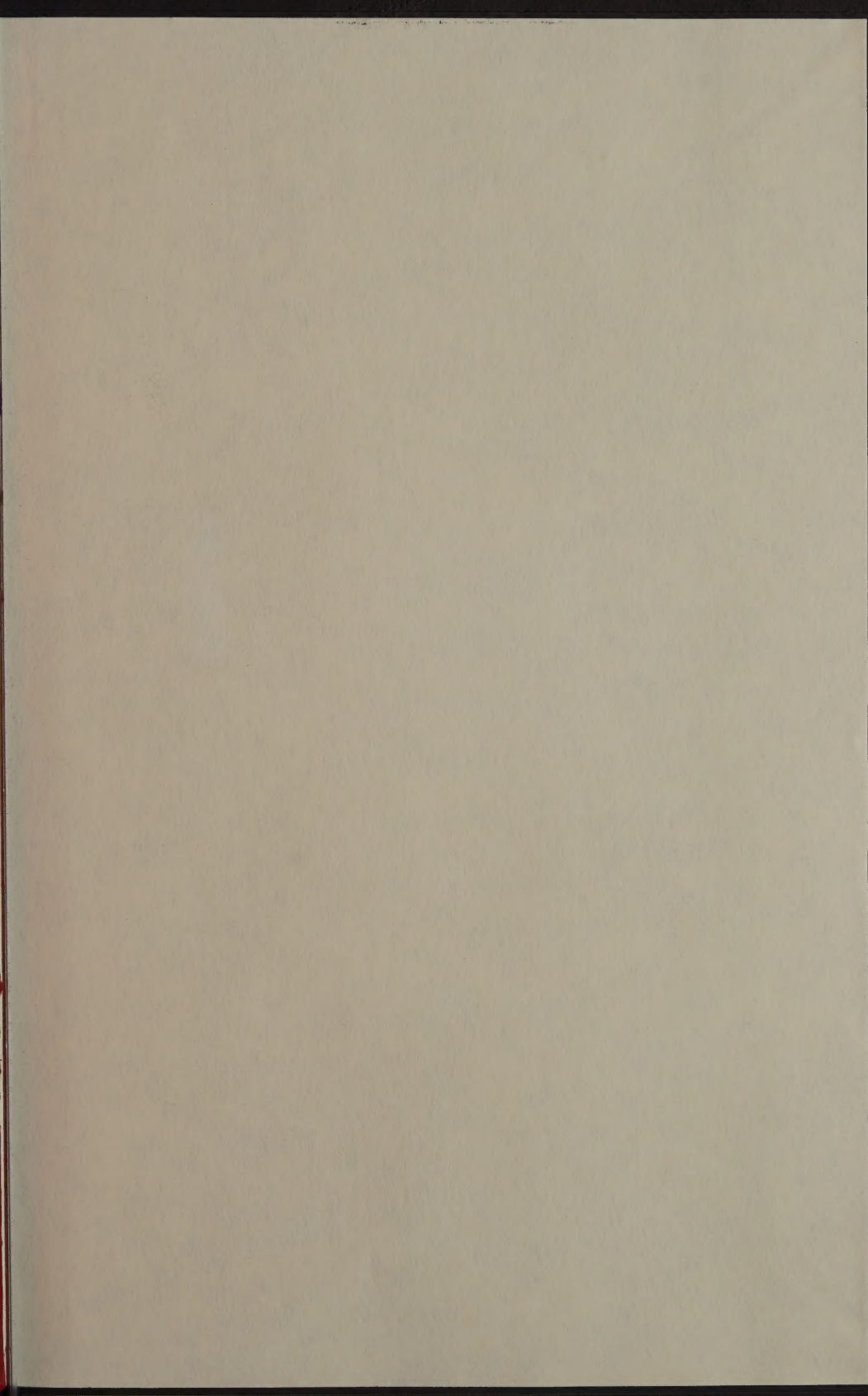
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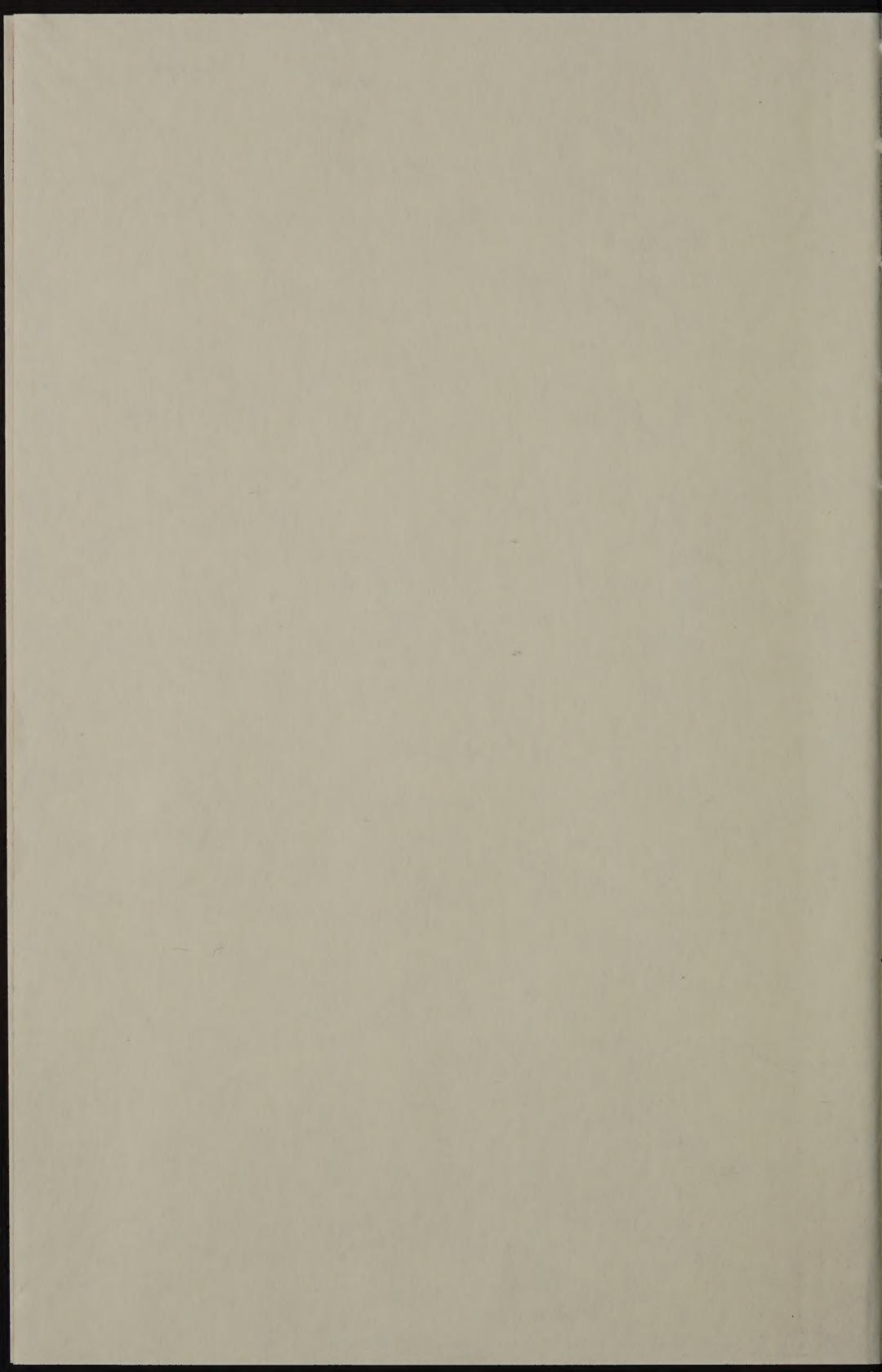
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